The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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BIG BUSINESS WARNED PEOPLE ARE RESTLESS

Washington, Feb. 10.—Testifying before the senate oil investigating committee, Colonel Robert W. Stewart of the Standard oil company of Indiana said American industry must set its house in order and adopt a definite economic policy that will command the respect and support of the people.

The testimony is unusual from many standpoints and especially because business men, when testifying before congressional committees, have but one song: "Everything is all right with industry save a few agitators who would destroy capital."

The testimony indicates that in the inner circles of big business are those who note the people's growing resentment against the centralization of wealth, excessive profits, stock dividends, low wages and union smashing.

The oil magnate's plain talk has jarred those people "who don't believe in agitators," but who now hear a capitalist talk the same language of men who are called "agitators. The testimony is an acknowledgment that big business has about run its highbinder course and that it must shorten sail and reorganize its policy.

Colonel Stewart's warning is considered so important that the Washington Post, spokesman for the national administration and friend of trade unions—"when they are run right"—arrays itself in sack cloth and ashes and trumpets to the world: "American industry, in many respects, has been blind to light and deaf to reason affecting its own existence."

TEXTILE DIVIDENDS REST ON CHILD LABOR

Boston, Feb. 10.—The oft-repeated claim that the huge textile dividends rest on low wages and child labor was again developed at a conference of women in this city.

Atherton Brownell, a member of the national child labor committee, said that the cities having the greatest percentage of child labor are also the cities which have the greatest amount of cotton manufacture, and they are all located in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

"The city having the undesirable distinction of being the worst in the country with regard to the employment of children is Woonsocket, R. I., closely followed by Fall River Mass.," he said. "Then comes Pawtucket, R. I., and then New Bedford and Lawrence, Mass. All of these cities have more than 17 per cent in child labor. Compare these with the large cities, which have no such manufactures, and you will find them ranging from 7.2 per cent in Chicago down to less than 3 per cent in Cleveland. Boston shows 6.4 per cent."

In reply to recent denials by New Bedford cotton manufacturers that they were using child labor to a large degree, Mr. Brownell said:

"I am now able to say on the authority of the United States census bureau that of the 2,133 children of New Bedford from 10 to 15 years of age, inclusive, 1,296 were employed in the cotton mills in 1920. In Fall River, out of a total of 2,660 children employed in all activities, 1,775 were at work in cotton mills."

FLOGGINGS ORDERED BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Little Rock, Ark., Feb. 10.—Emmett Crosby testified before a legislative committee that city officials of Heber Springs ordered workers flogged to secure information regarding alleged depredations on the Missouri & North Arkansas railroad.

Crosby said he was taken from his home by a mob after receiving a warning to give information from Mayor Vinson, who acted as spokesman for the mob. Crosby said he was tied to a pole and whipped by three men. He was then warned to leave town before sunrise, he said.

Witnesses stated that the citizens' committee has established mob government and driven out of town every worker and sympathizer the mob happens to dislike. The test of citizenship the mob has set up is loyalty to the Missouri & North Arkansas railroad. Anyone who says aught against this corporation, whose defiance of the railroad labor board resulted in the present strike, is liable to be lynched or flogged.

BIG TEXTILE PROFITS.

New York, Feb. 10.—Business associations and financial interests are doing the "yes, yes" act when northern textile employers claim they can not compete with southern mills. In Rhode Island a great cry is raised over the Jenckes spinning company sending a portion of the machinery of a Pawtucket mill to North Carolina.

President McMahon of the United Textile Workers of America asks if this company is stating facts when it claims it cannot run cotton mills at a profit.

"In the five years ending June 30, 1921, the latest figures available, this company made a total profit of $10,400,000," says the trade unionist. "During the first three of these five years the company did not own the Loray mills of Gastonia, N. C. In those three years its profits totaled over $5,500,000—all made in Rhode Island."

CO-OP. PLAN IS STUDIED.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The United States bureau of labor statistics has issued in bulletin No. 313 the results of a statistical study of the consumers' co-operative movement in 1920.

Two types of societies are included in the study: Exclusively consumers' societies and societies which combine the functions of consumers' societies with those of marketing associations. While the latter are consumers' associations only incidentally, their chief function being that of marketing agencies, the volume of co-operative buying being done through them is so considerable that it was thought desirable to include them in the report. Throughout the study, however, the data for the two types of societies are kept separate.

REWARD STRIKEBREAKERS

San Francisco, Feb. 10.—The Southern Pacific railroad, it is announced, will reward its strikebreaking shop men.

The announcement reads like a report from a battle front in the world war, as the public is informed that many division officials "rendered service of distinction" in the strikebreaking stunt. A low estimate is placed on the worth of the ordinary strikebreaker, who will be paid as low as $50.

OPPOSE EIGHT HOURS.

Indianapolis, Feb. 10.—An eight-hour law for women workers is being opposed by manufacturers, welfare workers and business women's clubs.

NO HEAT IN FIGURES; PUBLIC DEMANDS COAL

New York, Feb. 10.—"In the name of the public health, I call upon you to end statistical performances and put your house in order. The public wants coal and wants it now," says Dr. Royal S. Copeland, United States senator-elect, in a letter to Robert S. Brinkerd, railroad official, who has been quoting freight statistics to prove the railroads are not responsible for present coal conditions.

"We are not interested in comparative statements," said Dr. Copeland. "What we want is a large increase of coal over the present receipts. Our bins are empty because of failure of supply during previous months. We are inconvenienced and worried. The public health is imperilled, and in all probability there have been deaths as a result of the railroads' failure to supply coal.

"We would not excuse the fire department if half its apparatus was out of order when a great conflagration occurred. We would not forgive the police commissioner if half his force was away on vacation when a long-threatened riot took place. We expect a corporation, charged with the duty of furnishing a public necessity, to be prepared for every emergency.

"You are not so prepared, are you? Surely you are not proud of the record of the railroads during the past six months, as shown by the interstate commerce commission's report? This reveals a deplorable condition, does it not?

"In your letter you say the roads you mention have not settled with the striking shop craft employes because they have made agreements with organizations of their present employes, agreements which have been entered into in good faith, etc.

"Did the roads which made these agreements do so in order to build up this defense against the very charges which are now being justly made against them? Have your roads always been so considerate of your 'faithful employes'? Is it that you have a real interest in the present group of employes, or have you a desire to destroy the shop crafts organizations?

"If it is the latter, why not frankly declare the fact? If not, why not adjust your differences, put these men to work, repair your locomotives, relieve the discomfort of the country and save innumerable lives which will be lost, if you persist in your obstinate course?"

ARMY HEAD DISAVOWS SPYING ON UNIONS

Washington, Feb. 10.—Secretary of War Weeks has disavowed the letter written by a young intelligence officer at Vancouver Barracks, Wash., wherein he calls on peace officials to watch certain organizations, including the A. F. of L., and report to him. In a letter to President Gompers, Secretary of War Weeks says:

"The military intelligence division does not conduct in time of peace any investigations of the nature indicated by the above-mentioned officer. I am sure that you will agree with me that the utterly ridiculous assertion that the American Federation of Labor should be considered as an organization having for its object the overthrow of the government should not even be accorded the dignity of a denial. I have directed a thorough investigation of this matter and propose to apply such corrective and disciplinary measures as may prove to be merited.

"I sincerely regret this incident and hope that you will attach to it only the importance which should be given to the thoughtless and immature action of a young man whose enthusiasm has completely dwarfed his judgment and discretion."

OPPOSE TERRORISTIC LAW.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 10.—Nearly two score professors of Columbia university and other educational institutions urge the state senate committee on education to favor the repeal of the Lusk laws for the licensing of teachers and of public schools.

The educators express the belief that these laws should not be passed, "but, having been passed in a period of post-war excitement, their repeal may now be hastened as a sign to the country that the state of New York is recovering its political sanity.

"To decide against the repeal of these laws at this time would tend to bring into question the capacity of the people of this state to promote the welfare of the schools without depending on laws that censor the opinions of citizens and continually imply suspicion of the loyalty of schools and teachers."

Under a state law teachers and all other employes in the state and municipal service must take the "constitutional oath," as do officers of the national government.

This law, however, does not seem sufficient for public school teachers, who are called upon, under the Lusk law, to satisfy the commissioner of education as to their character and loyalty. This state official sits in judgment over every expression of the teachers, and there is no appeal from his decision.

PATRIOTS SETTLE.

Detroit Mich., Feb. 10.—The government has adjusted its differences with the Lincoln motor car company, which so patriotically and unselfishly aided in winning the war.

The government charged that during the excitement incident to the war the company was overpaid $9,188,561 for the manufacture of munitions. More than $2,000,000 was paid because of the loss of "anticipated profits."

Since the war the company has gone through bankruptcy proceedings, and its plant has been sold. The government agreed to a settlement of its claim by the payment of $1,550,000, or $7,638,561 less than was originally demanded. The bankruptcy sale wiped out all claims of stockholders, and the deal leaves but 47 cents on the dollar to satisfy 800 merchandise creditors.

STOCK DIVIDENDS USEFUL.

New York, Feb. 10.—The value of stock dividends for concealing profits is shown in the Great Northern paper company's statement that an extra cash dividend of $1 a share will be paid on its increased capitalization.

Only recently the company announced a stock dividend of 200 per cent. This permits "spreading" the profits over such a large amount of stock that it does not attract attention.

TO REORGANIZE CLERKS.

Richmond, Cal., Feb. 10.—Retail clerks have started a campaign to reorganize these workers in this section.

HOUSE WHITEWASHERS WOULD JAIL KELLER

Washington, Feb. 10.—The house judiciary committee was ridiculed by Congressman Connally for stating in its Daugherty whitewash report that the house has the power to confine Congressman Keller in jail until he consents to testify before the committee.

The Texas lawmaker quoted the constitution, court decisions, legal authorities, precedent and English decisions to show that members of the judiciary committee, composed mainly of lawyers, ignored their profession. Congressman Connally based his position on this point:

"Congress has the right to expel a member, because that power is expressly granted under the constitution, but when that member is expelled his constituents have the power and the right under the constitution to elect a successor to represent them here. But when the house of representatives asserts the right to take from this floor a member who represents 200,000 or 300,000 people and incarcerate him in the public jail, and prevent the exercise of his duties on the floor of this house, because he refuses to testify before a committee, it violates the very principle upon which the constitutional privilege was established."

It is declared the house will not act on the committee's recommendation, but the lame ducks on the committee have proven their "regularity" when the plums are to be distributed after March 4.

Congressman Thomas of Kentucky traced the record of the judiciary committee in this case, and showed its bias. The speaker referred to the refusal of Attorney General Daugherty to appear before the committee and be cross-examined.

Congressman Blanton was given some newspaper publicity because of his attack on President Gompers in this case. Congressman Thomas made this scathing reference to his Texas colleague:

"He (Blanton) has about as much knowledge of the case as a swan floating on the broad bosom of mid-Atlantic has of the immeasurable depths beneath it."

PRIVATE GIFT GIVING HAS UNCERTAIN VALUE

New York, Feb. 10.—Former oppposition to huge private trusts, such as Carnegie's and Rockefeller's, is recalled by the statement by Dr. Henry S. Pritchett, acting president of the Carnegie corporation, that only the future can determine the value of these trusts, and that giving may do more harm than good.

Dr. Pritchett says college presidents are now selected for their ability to secure money and not for their scholarly attainments.

Several years ago considerable antagonism to these private trusts were developed by citizens who made the same points now developed by Dr. Pritchett. This opposition was gradually silenced by those who favor taking money regardless of its source or of its effect on a community and on the teaching staff of a college.

"The fact may as well be faced at once," said Dr. Pritchett, "that giving, whether in the public sense or in the private sense, will in the end involve a personal responsibility and a personal scrutiny.

"Somebody must sweat blood with gift money if its effect is not to do more harm than good, and this is equally true whether the giving be private or public, whether it be done by an individual or by a trust."

RESTRICT LIABILITY LAW.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The controller general of the United States has ruled that the federal employes' compensation commission can not pay benefits except for "personal injury in the performance of duty."

The effect of this decision is shown in the case of an iron molder who died two years ago of pulmonaray tuberculosis as a result of being compelled to work in a draft in the navy yard. His widow is now receiving $66.67 a month, which will be cut off unless relief is afforded by congress.

Instead of the government being a model for its treatment of disabled employes, the decision holds the federal compensation within stricter limits than possibly any state act.

Representatives of the various organizations of federal employes have started a movement to secure legislation that will re-establish former conditions.

The following officers of international unions have conferred with members of the United States employes' compensation commission and with Chairman Volstead of the house judiciary committee: Miss Gertrude McNally, vice president, and James P. McKeon, secretary, of the federal employes; Secretary Flaherty of the post office clerks; Secretary Cantwell of the letter carriers; Secretary Strickland of the railway mail carriers; and President Alifas of the navy yard machinists.

MANY POTATOES WASTED.

Washington, Feb. 10.—About 50,000,000 bushels, or more than 11 per cent of last year's record crop of white potatoes, were wasted or consumed on farms or left undug, according to the department of agriculture.

Heavy production last year resulted in prices which made it unprofitable for many farmers, especially those in the central northwest, to dig their crop, some sections being able to obtain only 20 cents or less a bushel.

WANT HANDCUFF LAW.

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 10.—Organized business men and their political agents in this state have risen to the heights of Kansas statesmanship by demanding the passage of a "can't-strike" law.

The New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad is making slow progress in its effort to smash the shop men's unions, and the legislature is asked to help.

WAR WORKERS REDUCED.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The number of civilian employes in the war department have been reduced to within 1,478 of the pre-war strength, which was 45,911. The pre-war civilian strength of the department in this city was 2,911. When the armistice was signed on November 11, 1918, it was 47,466. On March 3, 1921, it was 3,548. Today it is 4,608.

FURRIERS SIGN CONTRACT.

New York, Feb. 10.—Practically every Brooklyn fur manufacturer is a party to an agreement with the two Fur Workers' unions. More than 2,000 workers are involved.

CHURCH MAN EXPLAINS DOCTRINE OF PROPERTY

Washington, Feb. 10.—The "Christian doctrine of property" is explained in a pamphlet written by Dr. John A. Ryan, and which will appear in the near future, announces the national Catholic welfare council, department of social action.

"The most striking recognition of the claims of all men to the bounty of the earth," it is stated, "is found in the writings of the church. They all express definitely the belief that 'the earth belongs to all,' that 'the superfluities of the rich are the necessaries of the poor.' About 35 years ago Cardinal Manning reiterated this doctrine when he declared that the starving man had a right to steal to save himself from starvation. Some of the papers of that day denounced this principle as anarchistic."

The pamphlet includes an original application of the principles of the intrinsic sacredness of the human individual and the fundamental equality of all men. It suggests a limitation of capitalist property—a plan whereby labor would be given the same incentive as has heretofore been accorded only to capital—the hope of indefinite gain unrestricted by law and determined only by the finite capacities of the pursuers.

"The scheme in general proposes to assure the capitalist a fair return for the loan of his money, sufficient to induce investment, but to give the surplus profits to the wage earners and the management. This would eventually result in the steadying of the market and the abolition of the speculative function of Wall street. The corporation would become a productive concern rather than a gambling medium."

RAILROAD COLLAPSES; BOSSES CRY "SABOTAGE"

Hartford, Conn., Feb. 10.—The union-smashing policy of the New York, New Haven & Hartford railroad has resulted in the complete demoralization of the system, and its management whimpers that the strikers have sabotaged the equipment.

This charge was made by General Manager Bardo before a committee of the Connecticut legislature. To prove that this charge was pre-arranged, the striking shop men show the partiality of the legislators who did not permit the strikers to offer evidence or to cross-examine the railroad manager.

In a public statement, the shop men say:

"Charging sabotage is an easy way to account for the breakdown of equipment which has been improperly repaired by unskilled strikebreakers. Hot boxes are sure to be caused by improper repair and packing. Loose nuts are the necessary result of inadequate inspection and careless work by incompetents. The road is crippled by its lack of skilled mechanics.

"Testimony brought out that the reason why the New Haven will not settle on the same terms as the more than 100 roads which have signed up is that it is tied to the apron strings of the minority group of executives led by Vice President Atterbury of the Pennsylvania railroad, whose dictum is, 'Make no contract whatever with the labor organizations.'"

The shop men also show that the sabotage whine is intended to smooth the ruffled feelings of state legislators, who are angry because they have been forced in many instances to travel on freight trains to reach their homes from Hartford.

PRODUCTION SECRET IS MACHINE MASTERY

Chicago, Feb. 10.—"Successful contractors are those who have been able to teach their men either in person or through their superintendents how to use machinery most effectively," says the American Contractor. This publication declares that "a lazy man who knows how to make a machine do the work for him can be of more practical value on a job than one who tries to accomplish every result by brute strength."

The editor quotes a recent issue of Industrial Management:

"Always keep in mind that managerial ability does not consist in making men do hard work. The Egyptian slave drivers were experts at that. Managerial ability consists in teaching men intelligently to supervise machinery and thus in making machinery do the hard work. For machinery, not muscle, holds all the secrets of cheap production."

OPPOSE SHIP SUBSIDY.

Washington, Feb. 10.—President Gompers has called on the trade union movement to resist the final effort of reaction and greed to pass the ship subsidy bill. Senators are being subjected to the greatest pressure to pass this legislation, which would mean an annual loss to the people of more than $150,000,000, according to numerous authorities.

The A. F. of L. has repeatedly condemned ship subsidies, and President Gompers urges every unionist to forward protests to their senators and urge every other opponent of subsidies to take similar action.

Every effort is being made to break the opposition of these senators. It is stated that the president will make a final appeal for the bill in the hope that it can be passed before March 4. The chamber of commerce of the United States and other business organisations are striving to develop a public opinion, but these will be futile if organised labor and sympathizers notify their senators that the nation's producers are against the subsidy.

This knowledge will encourage anti-subsidy senators, who have numerous subjects of importance that can be called upon to keep the subsidy off the boards. These include refunding the British debt, a world's economic conference, child labor and railroad legislation, tax-exempt securities, and forestry conservation.

SIGNALMEN GET 8 HOURS.

Chicago, Feb. 10.—The railroad labor board has granted the eight-hour day to railroad signalmen, but has refused to increase wages. In a dissenting opinion A. O. Wharton, labor member of the board, said an increase in wages should be granted, in view of the increased cost of living.

WANT PREVAILING RATE.

Olympia, Wash., Feb. 10.—Trade unionists in this state urge legislation that would instruct state administrative officials to insert a clause in all contracts let by the state compelling the contractor to pay prevailing wage scales.

ENAMELERS WIN.

New Brighton, Pa., Feb. 10.—After they voted to strike, organized sanitary enamelers secured a good agreement with employers. The workers were aided by A. F. of L. Organizer Flynn.

COMPULSORY LABOR OPPOSED BY GOMPERS

Washington, Feb. 10.—The appeal to the American congress by the German organized workers on account of the Ruhr situation "deserves serious and sympathetic consideration by the government of the United States," said President Gompers, in a public statement.

"The era has passed when compulsory labor can be imposed upon workers," said President Gompers. "The trend toward the abolition of slavery began three-quarters of a century ago.

"The heart of the people of France throbs with generosity and is opposed to the imposition of compulsory work upon the people, or any portion of the people, of Germany.

"The German people must understand that they cannot entirely escape from some reasonable payment for the ravages and devastation which the kaiser, in their name, so ruthlessly carried on.

"Though the senate of the United States has refused to ratify the Versailles treaty, and therefore the United States is not legally bound by its terms, we cannot escape the moral responsibility which devolves upon us of recognizing that it was that treaty which ended the war and that the armistice was merely a stoppage of actual military conflict. In formulating the conditions of the armistice the United States was a party.

"I repeat and emphasize the statement I recently made in commenting upon the Ruhr situation, that if our country ratified the treaty, or if we and Great Britain had guaranteed to France the protection which she so naturally and logically needs, that is against future aggressions of Germany, no such situation as that which now exists in the Ruhr would have arisen.

"Now, I believe that our government should tender its good offices as mediator. We have no selfish designs upon either of their countries, or upon any country, and the offer to act as mediator should, in my judgment, be made in good faith to France and Germany, and offered without regard to whether either or both nations will be pleased or displeased."

STATE'S RIGHTS PLEA RAISED BY OVERMAN

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 10.—The proposal to regulate child labor by amending the federal constitution will be opposed by United States Senator Overman of this state, who writes to the local central body that the plan involves state's rights.

Mr. Overman says he will vote for only one amendment to the constitution, and that will provide that all amendments to the constitution will be "submitted by the legislature to the people, either by referendum, convention, or otherwise as they may determine."

"I do not consider the child labor amendment necessary, as the states have already legislated upon this subject in a way that is satisfactory generally, and that is the reason why I cannot comply with your request, as I would otherwise like to do," said Senator Overman.

"While I am heartily in favor of a child labor law, I want it done by the people of the state and want no interference on the part of the federal government in our local matters."

HIGH COURT UNDER FIRE.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The United States supreme court was attacked at both ends of the capitol because of its 5-to-4 decisions. Senator Borah presented a bill which would necessitate seven members of the court concurring before an act could be declared unconstitutional. This would apply only to cases over which the court has appellate jurisdiction; that is, to cases that come to the court on appeal. Congressman Frear of Wisconsin introduced a constitutional amendment along the same lines.

"We find the once all-powerful legislative branch of this government," said Congressman Frear, "now dwarfed to the position of a supplicant for legislative license, constantly waiting, hat in hand, in the anteroom of the court for its seal of approval. The loss of prestige and power of the American congress and growth of imperial authority by the once mild-mannered court is best expressed by a lusty challenge of Justice Taft, chief for life. In the late case of Bailey vs. Drexel furniture company (May 15, 1922, child labor case), he said.

"'It is the high duty and function of this court in cases regularly brought to its bar to decline to recognise or enforce seeming laws of congress dealing with subjects not intrusted to congress but left or committed by the supreme law of the land to the control of the states. We can not avoid the duty, even though it requires us to refuse to give effect to legislation designed to promote the highest good.'"

ROADS MUST SERVE PUBLIC

Denver, Feb. 10.—Resolutions have been introduced in both branches of the legislature calling on the governor to demand that the railroads provide the public with transportation, as provided by law. Throughout the state come angry protests from farmers, stock men, fruit growers and the public generally of insufficient service.

The patience of the public is about exhausted, but the hard-boiled executives are depending upon their hordes of lobbyists to convince the legislators that the union-smashing policy of railroad managers has nothing to do with faulty service.

WILL PROBE CHILD LABOR.

Harrisburg, Pa., Feb. 10.—State officials admit that the child labor law is violated in wholesale fashion, especially in the anthracite region of this state. The charge was first made by the United States children's bureau, and Governor Pinchot has declared that he will investigate. It was pointed out in the federal report that in one anthracite town out of every 1,000 babies born, 187 died during the first year, and that in some communities half the boys from 10 to 16 years of age left school to work in the mining industry.

STEREOTYPERS GAIN.

Brockton, Mass., Feb. 10.—Organized stereotypers employed on newspapers in this city have raised wages from $4.25 a day or night to $7. In Lowell the stereotypers changed the old scale of $35 a week to $42 for day work and $45 for night work.

WOULD CONTROL AGENCIES

Sacramento, Cal., Feb. 10.—Private employment agencies in this state are under attack by members of the California legislature, who have offered several plans to control this evil.

NO BUILDING LABOR SHORTAGE IMMIGRANTS ARE NOT NEEDED

Washington, Feb. 10.—The associated general contractors are singing the "labor shortage" song and their action, according to William J. Spencer, secretary-treasurer of the building trades department, A. F. of L., is "based either upon gross ignorance of the facts or serves some special purpose which the contractors are unwilling to disclose."

At their Los Angeles convention the contractors outdid the wildest plea of cheap laborites for unrestricted immigration and claimed that an alleged labor shortage in the building industry can be traced to the present immigration law and the failure to introduce apprentices in this industry.

Secretary Spencer shows that the immigration law does not interfere with the building industry, as foreign building craftsmen come from the British Isles, Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, which countries have not sent their quotas under the existing law. The countries that have exhausted their quotas are the Balkans and southern Europe, but contractors have shown a decided reluctance to employ these immigrants, said Secretary Spencer.

If there is a shortage of bricklayers and plasterers, said Secretary Spencer, it is due to the unprecedented housing program launched throughout the country which is nearing completion at this time.

"It will be admitted that during the war solid structures were not erected by the government nor were private enterprises in building erection permitted, so that since there were no workmen employed it follows no apprentices were introduced to the trades.

"There is, perhaps, no one in this country in a better position to judge as to the truthfulness of the latter statement than officials of the associated general contractors of America, who had charge of all cantonment work, and indeed all war construction, and who will, without doubt, readily admit that there was little if any employment for the workmen of the two trades herewith mentioned, and that under the draft laws prospective apprentices would not be permitted employment even had the opportunity been open to them."

PLEAD FOR SYMPATHY WHILE DEFYING LAW

Washington, Feb. 10.—The pauperized and abused railroads that are always pleading for sympathy and "a square deal," are again shown to be lawbreakers.

Under the Cummins-Esch law railroads that earn over 6 per cent must pay one-half of the excess into the federal treasury for the benefit of weaker roads. This provision was in the original law when the railroads urged its passage by the biggest publicity campaign and the biggest lobby that was ever assembled in the nation's capital.

Many railroads are earning in excess of 6 per cent, but they declare they will not comply with the law because it is "unconstitutional." They have not even complied with the law under protest.

In a recent speech Clyde M. Reed, chairman of the Kansas public utilities commission, charged the Santa Fe railroad with hiding its enormous profits so that when the government attempts to collect under the Cummins-Esch law, there will be nothing to collect. The Kansas official stated that this railroad makes no attempt to observe this law.

On the floor of the United States senate Mr. Capper stated that "not a dollar of these excess earnings above the 6 per cent fair-return standard, netted by probably 60 railway systems under the rate clause of the Cummins-Esch law, has been paid to the government."

Labor's Injunction Stand Ignored By Alleged Reviewer

New York, Feb. 10.—The New York Times' book review section recently devoted three columns to an alleged review of John P. Frey's book, "The Labor Injunction." The reviewer made no attempt to discuss fundamentals, and with the ease of a dancing master he glided over labor's opposition to the system of court-made law.

Under this system courts ignore statutory law and apply the injunction process when wage workers are involved. At all other times courts adhere to the purpose of the injunction writ, and only use it when the plaintiff has no other remedy at law.

Labor's protest against this usurpation and unfairness is treated lightly by the Times' reviewer, who would minimize this great fundamental point. He sweetly chirps:

"Mr. Frey's prime grievance is that the courts incline to extend their injunction jurisdiction from questions of strict property rights to questions of labor's conduct in matters connected with strikes."

The book emphasizes the trade union declaration that there can be no property in labor, but the reviewer revamps this pet dogma of the injunctionites: "The most sacred property of all is the worker's property in his labor capacity."

The maudlin discussion of the book shows that the realm of this reviewer is "Bertha, the Sewing Girl," or other thrillers, rather than economics and law.

LESS WOMEN EMPLOYED.

Washington, Feb. 10.—Contrary to popular opinion, the United States women's bureau says there were less women employed in 1920 than in 1910. The bureau bases this statement on a study of the census statistics.

"In continental United States 8,549,511 women 10 years of age and over were gainfully occupied on January 1, 1920," says the bureau. "This number represents an actual increase since 1910 of nearly half a million; but if the increase in population be taken into consideration the proportion of all women 10 years of age and over gainfully occupied decreased from 23.4 per cent in 1910 to 21.1 per cent in 1920."

There was a decrease in the number of women employed as servants, as farm laborers, as dressmakers, and as milliners.

"On the whole, the great change seems to have been in a decrease among women working in or for the home and in personal-service occupations, and a corresponding increase in clerical and allied occupations, in teaching, and in nursing, all of which have been women-employing occupations for many decades, but have not before reached such numerical importance," it is stated.

WANT STATE COSSACKS.

Chicago, Feb. 10.—The movement for state cossacks is general through the middle west. In Illinois, Indiana and Ohio the same forces that have been repeatedly defeated are again pleading for the kind of "law and order" that the cossack clans can enforce.

OPPOSE STATE INSURANCE.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 10.—Casualty companies oppose state-controlled workmen's compensation insurance. These private concerns are loading the mails of legislators with their propaganda in favor of exploiting the misery of disabled workers and the families of workers killed in industry.

RENEW LEASE SYSTEM.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 10.—The house has extended the convict lease system in this state until 1927. Opponents of extension say the people have been continually promised that the evil would be ended, but the state favors corporations by permitting them to make money off the leased convicts.

TEXAS ANTI-STRIKE LAW IS VICIOUS PROPOSAL

Austin, Texas, Feb. 10.—Railroad attorneys succeeded in convincing both senate and house committees that the open port law should not be repealed.

This bill outlaws any strike that interferes with the transportation of commerce, and applies to "any person or persons employed in any way on the docks, wharves, switches, railroad tracks, express companies, depots, freight depots, pipe lines or approaches or appurtenances to, or incident to, or used in connection with the handling of commerce by common carriers within this state."

The law defines common carriers to mean "any railway corporation, any express company, any interurban railway company, and street car company, and ship, dock, wharf company, any pipe line company engaged in the transportation of freight, express or passengers."

The law not only accepts the handcuff principle of the Kansas "can't-strike" law, but it permits the attorney general of the state or a county attorney to change to any other county he sees fit the trial of workers charged with violating the law.

Where workers are arrested, the attorney general or county attorney may demand a change of venue on the ground that the prosecution can not secure a fair and impartial trial in the county where the indictment is found. Upon the filing of such motion, it shall be the duty of the court to order such change of venue, but he must not select any county that, "in the opinion of the attorney general or the county attorney," is subject to like conditions and objections.

Under this law the prosecution has the sole right to select the county in which workers shall be tried. This county may be hostile to strikers and it may be such a distance that it is impossible for workers to pay the expense of their witnesses.

SPECULATORS' TRICKS.

Washington, Feb. 10.—In the senate Mr. Heflin of Alabama read press dispatches to show the excuses of cotton speculators. One dispatch stated: "Reports of further good rains in the south were considered a factor in the decline."

"The rain all over the cotton belt today does not amount to the popping of my finger in its effect upon the cotton crop of this year, which will be planted in April and early in May," said Senator Heflin.

"The cotton speculators of the country, backed by certain spinners here and abroad, beat down the price when they are ready to buy a little of the raw material for the spinning interests. Then in a few days the price will go up a little, and then, when they get ready for another supply of cotton they go out on the exchanges and put out a report that there has been rain in the cotton-producing section, and that is stated to be a reason for the break in the price of cotton three months before planting time. It is the most ridiculous thing I have ever heard."

JEWELL IS BARRED.

New Haven, Conn., Feb. 10.—The local board of education has barred B. M. Jewell, president of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department, from the high-school auditorium. The unionist was scheduled to speak there, but the board of education notified local unionists they changed their mind, and the auditorium could not be used for that purpose. State's Attorney Alling, who is a member of the board, announced that President Jewell has "defied the laws of the federal government." This anti-union generalization has made matters worse, and local trade unionists are demanding a bill of particulars.

UNCLE SAM'S PAUPER WAGE

Washington, Feb. 10.—In an appropriation passed by congress for the maintenance of the department of commerce building is provision for these pauper wages:

Engineer and electrician, $1,400; carpenter, $1,000; electrician, $1,000; three elevator conductors at $720 each; five guards at $720 each; three firemen at $720 each; assistant forewoman, $720; 21 laborers at $660 each; toilet attendant, $480.

GOVERNOR DOESN'T SCARE.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 10.—Governor Blaine publicly notified the Simmons company of Kenosha that its threat to leave the state because of increased taxes will have no effect on him.

The state executive asked the president of the company why he didn't move to Fifth avenue, New York, when taxes increased for the six years before he became governor from $42,000,000 to $84,000,000. Taxes for 1922 increased less than $1,000,000, the governor said, while taxes for 1923 will show a decrease.

STEEL PRICES GO UP.

New York, Feb. 10.—Steel prices are headed for higher levels, according to Judge Gary. In plain English, this means that prices are going up. The judge deplores the scarcity of labor. It seems that no one with Americanized idea is willing to accept the judge's 11 and 12 hour day.